

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF COTTERED PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COTTERED VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2011 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Bryan Pitman (Chair) Terry McGrath
 David Charles Brian Murchie
 Lesley Greensmith Derek Newman
 Officer present: Marty Kilby (Clerk and RFO)
 Attending: 7 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES** **Action**
None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2011 were before the meeting and after signed as a correct record
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
The Chairman had represented the Parish Council at the EHC Planning meeting when the biodigester at Buttermilk Farm was discussed. The Chairman had voiced the objections expressed by the Parish Council. Mrs Ingrid Snell also spoke opposing the proposal on behalf of the Cottered petitioners. The application was improved, but with a proviso that landscaping had to be determined. Following the approval the Clerk wrote to EHDC requesting that the Parish Council be involved in planning the proposed landscaping of the plant. The Guide Centre had been given a grant of £8,000 towards the heating of the Centre. The Chairman had been invited by Hertfordshire Constabulary for their 2011 briefing.
5. **PLANNING**
 - 5.1. **Bowling Mead Cottage, Cottered – 3/11/0134/FP**
Single and two storey rear extension.
Resolved: No objections
 - 5.2. **Buttermilk Hall Farm - Landscaping – X/10/1598/05**
Revised landscaping proposals relating to the Biodigester development.
Resolved: No objections.
 - 5.3 **Glebe House, Bull Lane, Cottered – 3/11/0348/FP**
Demolition of existing timber garage and erection of new timber garage
Resolved: No objections
 - 5.4 **Planning Schedule**
The updated planning schedule is an appendix to these minutes.
6. **FINANCE**
 - 6.1 **Financial Report**
The financial report was before the Council and noted.
 - 6.2 **Bank Accounts**
Agreed that the Parish Council account would be moved from Lloyds to Barclays, and Clerk

this would be done after the Parish Council elections on 5th May 2011 when the new Councillors were in post.

Resolved: To move the Parish Council bank accounts from Lloyds TSB to Barclays Bank, Buntingford Branch.

6.3 Payments authorised

598	Village Hall	£45.00	Nov, Nov and Jan hall hire
599	SLCC	£61.00	Subscription 2011
600	Clerk	£267.13	Salary and expenses March 2011
601	Village Hall	£15.00	March hall hire

7. RIGHTS OF WAY

7.1 Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Dr Roger Gomm had submitted a report and maps relating to the Herts County Council request for suggestions on improving the Rights of Way in the parish. These are attached as an appendix to these minutes. Roger Gomm was invited to speak and follow a detailed discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the following suggestions:

Footpath 21 - this footpath is widely used by horseriders and is valuable link in circuit of quiet tarmac roads and bridleways/RUPS/BOATS. Landowner has given permission to many people to ride across his land, policing status of this path as footpath is virtually impossible. Clerk to ask landowner if he would object to this footpath being a permissive bridlepath. Clerk

Footpaths 2, 3, 4 – HCC to be asked to provide clear waymarking Clerk

Routes along Old Bourne near junction of 4 footpaths – HCC to be asked to provide clear waymarking. Clerk

Bull Lane footpath – EHDC to be asked to provide dog bin at highway end of footpath. CVAS to be asked if they could consider the clearing of mess from this path.

Resolved: Clerk to advise the HCC Rights of Way Service of the above decisions. Clerk

7.2

Replacement of Stiles with Gates

On a number of footpaths Herts CC had replaced stiles with gates. Inspection on site had confirmed that the gates were not stockproof. After discussion it was agreed that HCC be informed that the Parish Council considered they should be involved and consulted on problems on rights of way in the parish. The installed gates were not stockproof in practical use. The landowners have asked the Parish Council to support their request for the original stiles, as shown on the definitive map, to be reinstated. CC Jane Pitman to be copied in to correspondence.

Resolved: Clerk to write to Herts County Council to obtain reinstatement of stiles on FP43, and FP 8, 9, 10. and to express the disappointment of the Parish Council that despite joining the P3 scheme the Parishes wishes appear to carry little influence. (copies to Cllr Jane Pitman) Clerk

7.3 Diversion - Footpath 45

In 2004 the Parish Council applied for a diversion of FP45. This was agreed with the landowners and HCC. HCC have now written to say that applications are not able to be processed free of charge. Concern was expressed at a delay of seven years before HCC addressed this project. Clerk to convey Council's feelings to HCC and also find out the costs involved. CC Jane Pitman might also be able to help.

Resolved: to request help from CC Jane Pitman and MP Oliver Heald to obtain HCC financial commitment to the agreed diversion of FP45. Clerk

8. **BUS SHELTER**
An additional bus shelter had been proposed. The cost of the shelter was more than could be afforded in the 2011-2012 financial year. Agreed to put on the agenda for September 2011 meeting. Clerk
9. **PARISH TRUST**
The minutes of the Parish Trust meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 were before meeting and signed as a correct record. Agreed to ask the CVAS to carry out clearance of Bull Lane footpath. The minutes of the Parish Trust showing agreement with the CVAS Clerk to be displayed on the web site and also the parish noticeboards. Clerk
10. **PLAYING FIELD**
A parishioner had requested to have a bouncy castle on the playing field for her child's birthday party on 26th August. The Parish Council had no objections to this request, and agreed to pass this to the Village Hall Committee recommending approval. Clerk
11. **THE QUEEN'S 2012 DIAMOND JUBILEE**
Noted that the people in the village will almost certainly celebrate this Jubilee, but that the Parish Council does not normally take the lead, but follows the parishioners' wishes.
12. **CLERK'S REPORT**
The Clerk's report was before the Council and the correspondence noted. This report is a appendix to the minutes.
Items of correspondence were highlighted, the first being a request from EHC to send planning consultations only by email. Clerk to advise EHC that this was not acceptable. Clerk to request additional salt bin to be located at Hunters Mead, the corner of Coles Farm/Theydon Lodge. Clerk
13. **DATES OF MEETINGS**
Agreed that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 17 May. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on this date at 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm.
14. The meetings for the year would be on the second Tuesday of the month for the months July, September, November, January and March, all commencing at 7.30 pm. The dates Tuesday 12 July, 13 September, 8 November, January 10 2012, 13 March 2012. Clerk to reserve Hall. Clerk
15. **OTHER BUSINESS**
Noted that Warren Lane needed resurfacing at the further end, from Sheldon to the end. Clerk to inform Hertfordshire Highways. Clerk
16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be on Tuesday 17 May 2011 at 7.00 pm to be followed by a Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm and was followed by an open session.

Open session item was a request to put the CVAS detail on the Parish website and display on notice board.

Signed _____

Date _____